

Old Fashioned Labor And Many Hands Raise Alden Barn

It was reminiscent of a time long ago, when neighbors reached out to neighbors in true community spirit. That is the manner in which towns like Duxbury were created, and that is how their descendents now hope to build the future.

Last Saturday groups of volunteers and contractors gathered to construct a new 2-story visitor center at the historic John Alden House, on the site of the old barn that collapsed a few years ago. The wooden frame of the structure, which features an old-fashioned post and beam construction, was erected last weekend. Volunteers hope that by the end of the week the structure will be totally enclosed.

The visitor center, which will be handicapped-accessible when completed, will include a meeting room, a classroom demonstration area, storage space and bathrooms.

The barn site is on part of 100 acres along the Bluefish River that John Alden won in a Plymouth County land grant lottery in 1627. The colonial house is believed to include the framework of the cottage that John and Priscilla Alden built in 1632 when they moved to what is now Duxbury from Plymouth. John Alden lived in the house the last 30 years of his life.

The new barn is expected to cost about \$250,000 to finish, with grants received from the UPS Foundation, the Wright Foundation and the Heritage Fund in Duxbury.

Donations to the on-going visitor center project may be made to the Alden Museum, P.O. Box 2754, Duxbury 02331.